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Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Pastor: Father John Thomas

john.thomas@pastoral.org

Parochial Vicar: Father Shibu Cheriankunnel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



January 8, 2023 Epiphany

He shall govern your people with justice.
Ps.71:2

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

(Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

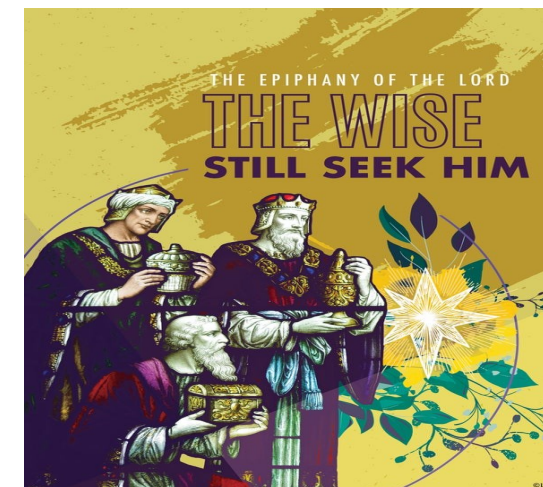
Second Reading:

It was not made know to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

["Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"](#)

We saw his start at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)



My Dear Parishioners

In Matthew 2: 9-11, the ageless story describes a Star in the East guiding three wisemen, or magi, to the place of the divine birth of Christ. Legends of the Celtic peoples tell that their druids and seers, through study of astrology and signs seen in the sacred fires, also foretold this divine birth.

According to medieval legends, the three wisemen were named Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar. Each of them came from a different culture: Melchior was Asian, Balthazar was Persian and Gaspar was Ethiopian, thus representing the three races known to the old world. For me, this is such an important point on which to reflect. Because these wisemen represented the only known races in all the world, this means Christ, even in his infancy, calls ALL PEOPLE to himself.

These three priest-kings and wisemen brought royal gifts to the divine infant: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Melchior brought a golden cup. Balthazar brought a gold box of frankincense. Gaspar brought a curiously chased flask of myrrh, a royal embalming oil.

The gift of gold symbolizes the kingship of Christ, which represents our own true royal Selfhood and our giving of love and service as directed and commanded by that Self. The gift of frankincense symbolizes the Godhead of Christ and our own gifts of honor and reverence to our indwelling Divinity. The gift of myrrh is a prophecy of the death and burial of the earthly body of Christ, which represents our understanding and empathy for the suffering of humanity.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek meaning “to appear,” “to be shown forth,” or “to make known.” According to Roman Catholic tradition, Epiphany signifies the first appearance of Christ to the gentiles in the story of the visit of the three wisemen to the divine infant Jesus. As the three wisemen represent all the known peoples of the world, this signifies an appearance to the entire world, not just a few.

My brothers and sisters, as we continue to make our way through the Christmas Season, I beg you to reflect on the diversity of people in our own congregation. Each person and culture brings with it such beauty, strength, and history. We are all drawn together in the name of Jesus and each of us has a ‘gift’ to offer.

On this Epiphany Sunday, we remember the wisemen and what they can mean for us today. The same truth is made known. Let us keep our eyes open, our mind clear, and our hearts soft, so that the truth of Jesus can be revealed.
Blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This year, in the United states the celebration of the Epiphany falls on January 8, but the traditional date for the Epiphany is January 6. The date we know as January 6 was established as the solstice in Egypt in 1996 BC, but the Egyptian calendar lost a full day every 128 years. Twenty centuries later the actual solstice had migrated to December 25. People still kept January 6 for the solstice celebration, but December 25, matching nicely with the Roman pagan feast of the Unconquered Sun, launched an extended solstice holiday. Christians began to celebrate Christ as the true light of the world in four themes: the Nativity, the manifestation to the Gentiles, the baptism of the Lord, and the wedding feast at Cana. That was entirely too much for one day to handle. A twelve day season was ready to be adapted, so Christians borrowed from the pagan calendar for their own season of light. Thus early Christian celebrations of the Christmas season extended from one date for the solstice, December 25, to the older date, January 6. The darkest time in the Northern Hemisphere could now be filled with the Christian observance of the arrival of the Light of the World. --Rev. James Field, Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you!

- ◇ Jean Higgs--in memory of Rachel Hersey, Doris Smith, Lucille Higgs, Betty Wright, Earsie Moore
- ◇ Jeff and Misty Sanford
- ◇ Georgia Holland--in memory of Frances Johnson
- ◇ Vivian Higgs--in memory of Penny Blackwell, Earsie Moore, Cherie Taylor, Kenneth Higgs,
- ◇ Cindy Clark--in memory of Chick and Betty Jo and Holly Thompson
- ◇ Connie Clary
- ◇ Janet Clark --in memory of Ethel, R.T. and Tommy Clark
- ◇ Nancy Bumm--in memory of Les Bumm
- ◇ Ruth Coble--in memory of Clyde Coble
- ◇ Sister Jeannette--in memory of Chris and Martha Fennewald, Sister Paulette, SSND

January Birthdays

3--Parker Malone
7--Jacques Williams II
10--Whitney Williams
14--Burnell Hamilton
20--Janet Clark
22--Von Williams
25--Louise Johnson
27--Sarah Malone, Lilly Malone
26--Frank Adams
30--Pam Wilson



To all who helped lift our minds and hearts in worship at the Christmas liturgy. Those who helped with envisioning and decorating our environment. Those who were our ministers--especially our three priests and server. Those who shared your musical talents--vocalists and instrumentalists. As a small parish, we are so blessed to have musicians who greatly enhance our worship. Thank you.

Mass Intentions

January 1--Stephen Hall
January 8--Betty and John Clark
January 16--Sandy Dyer
January 23--Stephen Hall
January 30--Betty and John Clark

Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Mike Coakley, Rachel Mattingly, Carol Hatchett, Sister Janice Fennwald, Charlie Brown Sr, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Janice Taul, Merle Griffith, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Ruth Coble, Larry Conder, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman, , Camilla Greer, Philip Moorman,Jr.

If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.

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(See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A BLANKET?

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

January 12--Scripture sharing
resumes 5:30 pm

Selflessness Rewarded : Help another's boat across and lo! Thine own has reached the shore. (Old Hindu proverb.)



Jan. 1--\$1232

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$1232.

MTD Budget--\$1058

YTD Collection--\$33,220.69

YTD Budget--\$26,450

May each give according to what the Lord has blessed us with.

Have you thought about donating to BSC online? It's safe. It's simple. It's convenient. You can use your debit or credit card, checking or saving account.
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Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear. But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed. But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? *"All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him."* — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but *something*. It moved him into action. So, then, it should move us all.

We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — Matthew 2:2 ©LPi

Renovated Sanctuary



Lectors	
Jan. 8:	Alexis Hatchett
	Greg Gough
Jan. 15:	Barbara Bisel
	Sarah Malone
Jan. 22:	Jacques Williams
	Misty Sanford
Eucharistic Ministers	
Jan. 8:	Janet Clark, Cindy Clark ,
	Misty Sanford
Jan. 15:	Rita Moorman,, Greg Gough,
	Kathi Skidd
Jan. 22	Barbara Bisel, Vivian Higgs,
	Lori Robinson
Collection & Gifts	
Jan. 8:	Ron and Joyce Moorman
Jan. 15:	Alexis and Alizabeth Hatchett
Jan. 22:	Hollis Family

Thanks to each of you who have made a pledge or contributed in some way to update our chapel. We invite you to get involved if you have not been. Phase 1 is complete except for presider and server chairs. Phase 2 is the replacement of windows. Donations my be made toward the windows (\$800). There is a total of 24 windows. A plaque will be displayed with names of people that windows have been purchased in honor of or memory of. When we receive needed donations, we will begin this Phase. Please keep all in prayers as together we serve the Lord with the gifts He gave us.

Readings for the Week

- Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 / Mt 3:13-17
- Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2 and 5-9/ Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18, Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/ /Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:611/Mk 1:40-45
- Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3-4, 6-8/ Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8-10, 15/ Mk 2:13-17

Observances for the Week of Jan. 8

- Monday: The Baptism of the Lord
- Friday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh were carried by the magi over many miles of hard travel to be laid at the feet of Jesus. What gifts do we bear through the journey of life to lay at the feet of the King? Do we protect them as we should? ©LPi

Laugh of the Week

Three Wise Women

You know what would have happened if there had been three wise women instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casse- role, and brought disposable dia- pers as gifts.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

The unfolding of the story of the Incar- nation continues today as the Church celebrates the Epiphany. The tale of the magi from the East is one of the most fascinating in all of scripture. It has much to teach us about what we can come to expect, even in circumstances and places that may seem insignificant or small.\

Bethlehem was a tiny town, what we might refer to today as a town without even one stop light. Yet it is over this seemingly insignif- icant place that the guiding star stops in its own search for the place where the guiding star stops in its own search for the place where the Savior would be born. Too often we fail to recognize the fact that the star of Bethlehem comes to rest in our everyday lives, where we can experience God's presence, manifested in ever new ways. Epiphany calls us to shake off our stupor and recognize the One who comes to save us.

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7 Rules of Life

1. **Let it go.** Never ruin a good day by thinking about a bad yesterday.
2. **Ignore them.** Don't listen to other peo- ple. Live a life that is empowering to you.
3. **Give it time.** Time heals everything.
4. **Don't Compare.** The only person you should try to beat is the person you were yesterday.
5. **Stay Calm.** It's okay not to have every- thing figured out. Know that in time, you'll get there.
6. **It's On you.** Only you are in charge of your happiness.
7. **Smile.** Life is short. Enjoy it while you have it.